



U.S. Postal Inspection Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO CHARGED IN THEFT OF POSTAL BOXES

PHOENIX— John Edward Bauer, 38, and Nathaniel Nathan Gatlin, 26, both of Glendale, Ariz., were arrested and charged in connection with the theft of two blue postal collection boxes stolen over the weekend. The arrests were made yesterday through the efforts of agents of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and officers from the Glendale Police Department. Both defendants appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Edward C. Voss this afternoon who ordered their detention until their detention hearings. Gatlin is scheduled for a detention hearing on Friday, December 23d at 10:30 a.m. in front of Judge Voss. Bauer will appear before Judge Mathis for a detention hearing on Wednesday, December 28th at 2:30 p.m. Both defendants waived their preliminary hearing.

U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton said of the thefts, "These thieves not only stole U.S. mail but also took away holiday cheer from loved ones using the U.S. Postal Service."

Assistant Inspector in Charge, Shawn Tiller, indicated that the Postal Service has installed replacement collection boxes in each location and that the stolen boxes were recovered by Postal Inspectors. He also reminded postal customers that "when depositing outgoing mail in a collection box, customers should always check that their mail is deposited before the last collection time posted on that receptacle."

According to court documents, Gatlin and Bauer drove to the Scottsdale and Surprise Post Offices in the late night hours and removed the bolts securing the large blue postal collection boxes. They then took the boxes and their contents of mail to one of their homes and proceeded to open the mail. The pair retained checks, cash and gift cards contained in the mail for their own use. Bauer was arrested after he used a Lowe's gift card at one of the company's stores.

The collection boxes were located at the Papago Station Post Office, 7460 E. McDowell Road, Scottsdale, Ariz. , and the Surprise Post Office, 14955 W. Bell Road, Surprise, Ariz. The Papago Station Post Office last collected mail from the collection box on Saturday, December 17 at approximately 4:00 P.M. The Surprise Post Office last collected mail from the collection box on Sunday, December 18 at approximately 12:45 P.M. Customers depositing mail after the last known collection time at either location should call the Postal Inspection Service at (602) 223-3660 to file a mail theft complaint.

A conviction for Mail Theft carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

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A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Glendale Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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